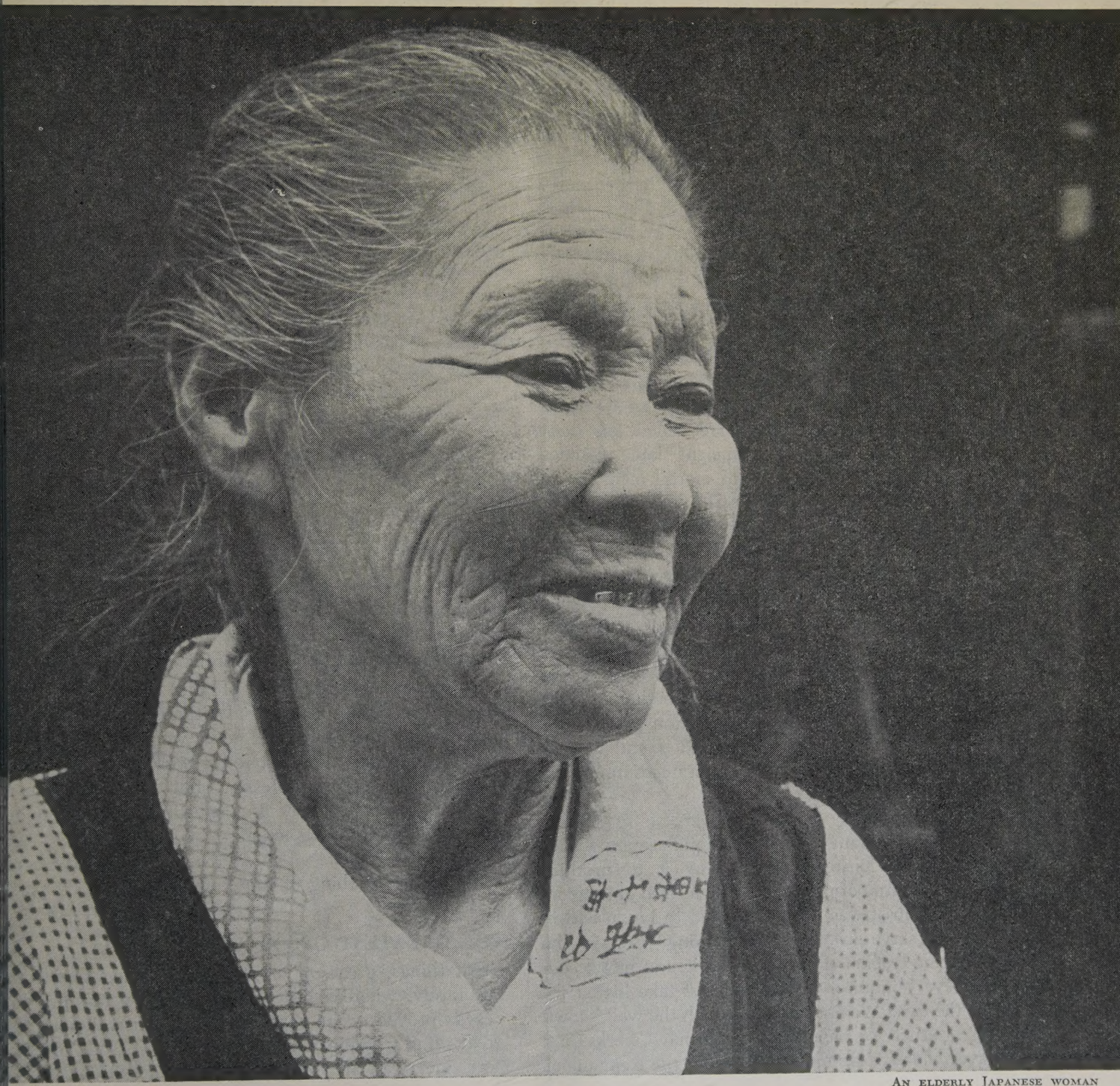
PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

the Alliance Weekly

JUNE 13, 1956



—MONKMEYER

AN ELDERLY JAPANESE WOMAN

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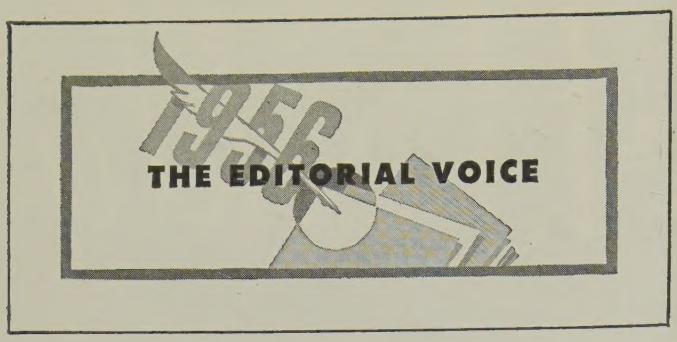

RELIGION NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTION

The supreme purpose of the Christian religion is to make men like God in order that they may act like God. In Christ the verbs *to be* and *to do* follow each other in that order.

True religion leads to moral action. The only true Christian is the practicing Christian. Such a one is in very reality an incarnation of Christ as Christ is the incarnation of God; not in the same degree and fullness of perfection, for there is nothing in the moral universe equal to that awful mystery of godliness which joined God and man in eternal union in the person of the man Christ Jesus; but as the fullness of the Godhead was and is in Christ, so Christ is in the nature of the one who believes in Him in the manner prescribed in the Scriptures.

God always acts like Himself wherever He may be and whatever He may be doing. When God became flesh and dwelt among us He did not cease to act as He had been acting from eternity. "He veiled His deity but He did not void it." The ancient flame dimmed down to spare the helpless eyes of mortal men, but as much as was seen was true fire. Christ restrained His powers but He did not violate His holiness. In whatsoever He did He was holy, harmless, separate from sinners and higher than the highest heaven.

Just as in eternity God acted like Himself and when incarnated in human flesh still continued to be true to His holiness in all His conduct, so does He when He enters the nature of a believing man. This is the method by which He makes the redeemed man holy. He enters a human nature at regeneration as He once entered human nature at the incarnation and acts as becomes God, using that nature as a medium of expression for His moral perfections.

Cicero, the Roman orator, once warned his hearers that they were in danger of making philosophy a substitute for action instead of allowing it to produce action. What is true of philosophy is true also of religion. The faith of Christ was never intended to be an end in itself nor to serve instead of something else. In the minds of some teachers faith stands in lieu of moral conduct and every inquirer after God must take his choice between the two. We are presented with the well-known either/or: either we have faith or we have works, and faith saves while works damn us. Hence the tremendous emphasis on faith and the apologetic, mincing approach to the doctrine of personal holiness in modern evangelicalism. This error has lowered the moral standards of the church and helped to lead us into the wilderness where we currently find ourselves.

Rightly understood, faith is not a substitute for moral conduct but a means toward it. The tree does not serve in lieu of fruit but as an agent by which fruit is secured. Fruit, not trees, is the end God has in mind in yonder orchard; so Christlike conduct is the end of Christian faith. To oppose faith to works is to make the fruit the enemy to the tree; yet that is exactly what we have managed to do. And the consequences have been disastrous.

A miscalculation in laying the foundation of a building will throw the whole superstructure out of plumb and the error that gave us faith as a substitute for action instead of faith in action has raised up in our day unsymmetrical and ugly temples of which we may well be ashamed and for which we shall surely give a strict account in the day when Christ judges the secrets of our hearts.

In practice we may detect the subtle (and often unconscious) substitution when we hear a Christian assure someone that he will "pray over" his problem, knowing full well that he intends to use prayer as a substitute for service. It is much easier to pray that a poor friend's needs may be supplied than to supply them. James' words burn with irony: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" And the mystical John sees also the incongruity involved in substituting religion for action: "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before him" (1 John 3:17-19).

A proper understanding of this whole thing will destroy the false and artificial either/or. Then we will have not less faith but more godly works; not less praying but more serving; not fewer words but more holy deeds; not weaker profession but more courageous possession; not religion as a substitute for action but religion in faith-filled action.

And what is that but to say that we will have come again to the teaching of the New Testament?

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THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

Great things, great opportunities of serving God come but rarely, whereas little things whereby our faithfulness is proved occur perpetually. If you wait for some great thing wherein to show your love to God, you may perchance wait all your life.—Jean Nicolas Grou.

The Omaha Council

By REV. CLIFFORD E. HARROD

OMAHA, Nebraska, described by the host pastor, Dr. R. R. Brown, as "the city surrounded by the United States," responded enthusiastically to the public services of the 59th General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, held in that city May 16 to 21. Friends of the Alliance drove as far as two hundred miles to hear messages which were geared to the general theme of Council, "The Changeless Christ for Changing Times."

The opening service was held in the Omaha Gospel Tabernacle. Council delegates were treated to a splendid musical program directed by Dr. R. S. Brown, son of the host pastor and director of music.

Keynote speaker for this opening service was Rev. Nathan Bailey who expressed the belief that "the church is facing her last great opportunity of service to the world" and called for a new vision of the need, a new baptism of the Holy Ghost and faith, and a new measure of love and sacrifice for the carrying out of our calling. He pointed out the responsibility of the Society: Every missionary has a parish of 115,000.* Every church in the homeland is responsible for nearly 83,000 persons on the foreign fields. Every member of the Alliance has a personal obligation to more than 1,300 persons in our mission fields. Mr. Bailey is Vice-President of the Society and superintendent of the Eastern and Central Canadian District.

Following a morning of Council business on Thursday, May 17, delegates listened to an inspirational message in the afternoon service by Rev. Frank F. Mason, formerly of the Baptist Union of South Africa, now of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Mason also emphasized the uncertainty of the times and the need for a new revelation of Jesus Christ. "I believe we have reached an hour of supreme need in the history of the world," he stated, "and in the history of the Christian Church. While all ages and civilizations have had their periods of crisis, never was there in human history such a crisis as that which confronts the world and the church today. The world is out of man's control; it was never meant to be his to control, for it is not man's world. This is God's world that He created, and He still has control of it," he encouraged his hearers.

The Thursday evening public service was held in the beautiful Music Hall of the Civic Auditorium, with many friends from Omaha and vicinity joining Council delegates for one of the most noteworthy services of the program. The superintendent of the Western District, Rev. Cecil R. Thomas, spoke on his recent trip to the Far East where he visited several Alliance mission fields. Particularly stirring was the speaker's graphic description of the work in the famed Baliem Valley, where our missionaries pioneered just two years ago.

Following this missionary message, Dr. A. W. Tozer, Chicago, Illinois, Editor of THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY, presented a timely discourse based on two counsels, "The Counsel of the Ungodly and the Counsel of the Lord." These, he declared, are in opposition, fighting one another unceasingly for dominion over the human mind. "The war ahead of us is not with guns and bombs, but a war to enslave the human mind by the forces of evil," warned Dr. Tozer. "While Communism is one of these forces, it is by no means the only one. There is a counsel of tolerance which teaches a hodgepodge of the brotherhood of man, adjustment and understanding, yet forgets that the most intolerant book in the world is the Bible from which they speak. The most intolerant Man in the world was Jesus Christ. He refused to compromise on any point. He would die for men but He would not compromise with them."

Dr. Tozer pleaded with the delegates and friends to seek the counsel of the Lord, which leads to purity, peace and permanence. "The counsel of the ungodly will not include God on God's terms; it prattles about God but does not accept His terms. It says nice things about Jesus Christ but does not receive Him on His own terms."

Following the evening service an extended period of prayer was held in the Tabernacle. There were many tears of repentance and intercession.

On Friday morning came one of the spiritual high lights of the Council, the annual communion service, presided over by Dr. H. L. Turner, assisted by the retiring Foreign Secretary, Dr. A. C. Snead. The presence of the Lord was unusually real in this service, marked by no sermonizing but the singing of the hymns which speak of the Lord's death.

"The Lord for the Body" was the theme of Rev. W. G. Weston, Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, in the healing service which followed. Mr. Weston brought one of his typical faith-building messages, weaving into it the account of his own remarkable physical deliverance, well known by all Alliance people wherever he has ministered. Many were anointed and prayed for as this service closed.

Dr. W. Robert Smith, of St. Paul, Minnesota, Professor of Philosophy at Bethel College, injected a much-needed note in the afternoon and evening services as he dealt with great eternal issues as viewed by a Christian philosopher. After speaking at length in the afternoon service on the vastness of the universe and all the creation of God, the speaker applied this truth to the individual lives of his hearers as he asked, "Now, tell me: Is this God big enough for your problems? Is

*NOTE: These figures are based on the total missionary responsibility of the Society, and include 21,000,000 in China and 11,000,000 in North Viet Nam. These areas are closed to missionary activity, but we are responsible for them in prayer.

He great enough to grant you wisdom? Is He great enough to save you?"

"What is Christianity?" was Dr. Smith's theme in the evening service. He defined Christianity as "a body of historical fact, the interpretation of these facts, a way of life and a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ."

Rev. W. W. Arnold, of French West Africa, brought the missionary address in this Friday night service, reminding the delegates that the Dark Continent is "waiting for the church to be stirred, waiting for it to be finished with its theological arguments, waiting for it to quit playing with its toys" and to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mr. Arnold told of a village which had gathered for eighteen years around a closed Bible which they could not read, waiting for a "man of God" to open it and reveal its truth. "Missions must become more than a program, an annual affair; it must become a passion!" the speaker said, in concluding his message. Dr. Bill Carle, well-known gospel soloist, was present for this service and appropriately sang "Shall I Empty-Handed Be?"

Dr. A. C. Snead, Foreign Secretary of The Christian and Missionary Alliance for thirty-five years, spoke Saturday afternoon on "The Church of God," emphasizing that "if we want men and women to see Christ, they must see Him in the Church. You and I are the Church." Following his address, Dr. Snead was presented a bronze plaque by Dr. Turner, in honor of his long and faithful career as a missionary, Foreign Secretary and missionary statesman. The retiring leader was deeply stirred, as were all who were present.

Mrs. Willys Braun, of Congo, and Rev. Gilbert H. Johnson, Professor of Theology and Director of Christian Service at the Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, New York, addressed Council delegates and friends on Saturday night, with the Music Hall well filled for the service. Mrs. Braun dramatically portrayed the various nights in the life and service of the foreign missionary.

"The Glory of God" was the topic of Mr. Johnson, who began his message speculating as to the worth of the present-day so-called religious revival. "We need to re-examine our personal relationship to the doctrine of the glory of God," he reminded delegates. He then proceeded to set forth this glory "as portrayed in the Word, as manifested in Jesus Christ and as reflected in the redeemed." He impressed upon his audience the need for a life of greater contemplation which "fixes its eyes on Jesus Christ, for what we contemplate we soon begin to practice."

An estimated half-million persons of the Omaha area were added to the Council audience on Sunday morning as Dr. Brown directed a TV missionary service over WOW-TV and WOW radio. Various missionaries in native costume were featured in this unique service, with the Preachers Chorus providing stirring musical support.

Dr. H. L. Turner brought the annual presidential message in the morning worship service of Sunday, speaking on "The Blessed Man." Dr. Turner based his sermon on the book of The Revelation as he presented God's "last words" regarding His desire for the believer: a life of blessing. "We need not only positional blessing, but experiential blessing here and now," he encouraged his audience. He reminded the capacity audience in Music Hall that John was a man in an unenviable position, that of exile and of knowing the discouraging circumstances of the church of that day. "However, he was not concerned with his own future, but for the future of God's children and God's glory." When he was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" John received such a divine revelation as to give his own heart encouragement and to pass it on for the church of every age. Dr. Turner closed his Scripture-filled message of assurance with this statement, "A blessed people is an unconquerable people, refusing to be defeated. A blessed people is a people of success and perseverance, refusing to take their eyes off Jesus Christ. . . . Only to the degree in which a man or a church retains a Patmos experience do we receive a revelation of Jesus Christ. Only as we're pressed close to Christ will we be able to withstand the pressure of the world."

On Sunday evening Rev. W. F. Bryan, pastor of the Toledo (Ohio) Gospel Tabernacle, took as his topic "Christian Authority." "Christ was a Man under authority," Mr. Bryan said. "He exercised authority and delegated authority." The speaker urged his listeners to enter into a "yoke experience" with the Lord. "We cannot adjust to common opinion or practices because God has gone on record as to what we must do. We are also under authority . . . We are as divinely placed in this world as Christ was upon His cross," stated Mr. Bryan, as he exhorted his listeners regarding a life of total commitment to Christ.

An unusual service was held Monday evening when a number of Christian laymen took part. Mr. Einar Waermo, Swedish tenor, was special guest soloist and beautifully sang several hymns as his testimony. The principal speaker was Mr. Stanley Tam, of Lima, Ohio, who told of God's dealings in his life. Faith and trust in God and obedience to His voice are requisites for progress and blessing in the Christian life, said Mr. Tam. This service closed with a spontaneous period of prayer and rededication, with many testimonies.

Next week: the missionary service and the business sessions.

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A PRAYER

O merciful God, fill our hearts, we pray Thee, with the graces of Thy Holy Spirit, with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Teach us to love those who hate us; to pray for those who despitefully use us; that we may be the children of Thee, our Father, who makest Thy sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust.—ST. ANSELM.

Genuine conversions do not result from merely believing a few facts about Christ

Accept No Substitutes!

By CLAUDE A. RIES, TH.D.

"WHAT are you doing?" said the shocked mother to her son who was scratching in his Bible with a penknife. "Mother, I've been reading of that poor father who came to Jesus and said, 'If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.' And I thought he oughtn't to say 'if' to Jesus, so I scratched it out."

While we do not approve of scratching out anything from God's Word, we do appreciate the vision of faith exhibited by the lad.

Many people coming to God still retain the "if," possibly not in word but in act. But that little "if" reveals the genuine and the false. Every genuine has a counterfeit, something that looks as good and is much cheaper than the genuine. We see it in clothing, in building materials and even in education. The most tragic counterfeit, however, is in religion.

Christian living has been greatly cheapened by the prevalence of so-called "easy believism." When a sinner is told he needs only to believe a few facts about Christ and he will be saved, he is being handed a counterfeit. Nothing short of a sinner facing his sins with God, repenting and turning from them and believing on Christ, will stand the fiery test of the Great Judge in the final day.

"Why don't my young people have any convictions of sin?" asked a student pastor of the writer recently. The answer is that we are not calling men to face their sin with God and turn from it to God and, because the foundation is only on sand, the superstructure is likewise very insecure. Mere intellectual perception cannot substitute for a faith unto "the saving of the soul."

An experience of faith in Christ which begins with a drastic change of attitude toward God and a departure from sin in all its forms will stand fiery trials. Nothing less will do. Houghton College's Chairman of the Division of Theology, Dr. Ries, vigorously protests cheap representations of the Christian life.

What a harvest of weaklings "easy believism" is producing today! Rev. T. A. Hegre, in *The Message of the Cross,* gives us some startling facts. In a careful investigation taken one year after a certain city-wide evangelistic campaign, only 3 per cent of the so-called converts could be found giving any real evidence of regeneration. What a contrast to the results of Charles G. Finney's Biblical preaching of rugged repentance and faith! In Oneida, New York, where under this man of God 100,000 persons sought the Saviour, a careful checkup made ten years later revealed the fact that 85 per cent were still faithful Christians!

Genuine faith is evidenced by fruitage. Faith is revolutionary in a person's character, in his conduct and in his destiny. It disturbs his thinking, speaking, working and playing.

Living faith and Christ cannot be separated. Faith is God's rich and gracious gift. If coming to God does not bring Christ into the life as a real, living, glorious reality, that so-called "belief" is a delusion. When we really receive Him following our believing (John 1:12), then Christ in us is the Spirit of faith for all we need of faith. He is the "faith of God." It is ours to possess our possessions. "Ye are complete in him" —not in your mental perceptions nor in your feelings nor in your feeble efforts to work up faith.

And so faith given by God to the surrendered sinner brings a transformed life; and the faith of God, the indwelling, living person of Christ, furnishes the enabling power to live an ever-expanding transformed life.

Faith is then accompanied by joy, poise and serenity. "He that believeth shall not make haste," or to put it more literally, "shall not get into a fuss."

Doubt sees the obstacles,
Faith sees the way;
Doubt sees the darkest night,
Faith sees the day;
Doubt dreads to take the step,
Faith soars on high;
Doubt questions: "Who believes?"
Faith answers: "I."

Vital faith does not come cheap. It cost God His only Son. It will cost us a complete sellout to God!

Persecution

True Christians rejoice in bearing persecution, for by it the Church is purified

By OSWALD J. SMITH, LITT.D.

THE Bible says, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). Persecution has always been the lot of the Christian and there is no escape. If you are not being persecuted it may be that you are not living godly.

No sooner had the Holy Spirit been poured out on the day of Pentecost than the devil began to rage. Almost immediately the disciples were brought into conflict with the priests and Sadducees, and the next thing they knew, they were behind bars.

Don't ever think that the priests and Sadducees are all dead. When the Holy Ghost is poured out they will be the very first to oppose. Persecution always comes from religious people, and generally from the leaders themselves. Every Spirit-filled man has found it so. The Russian believers were persecuted by the Greek Orthodox Church and were martyred by the hundreds or sent into Siberian exile. The Lutheran Church of Sweden became the terrible agency for the torture of Christians in that country. John Wesley suffered most of all from the clergy and laity of the Established Church of England. So with all the Reformers, and so with the spiritual people of today. Ah, yes, the priests and Sadducees are still alive. And if there is no persecution it is a sign that there is no Holy Ghost power. Let the Spirit be outpoured and there will be plenty of persecution.

Now what actually happened to the disciples? They were questioned of course. And what answers Peter gave! What Holy Ghost boldness! What fearlessness! And finally, since there was nothing else to do, the council let them go, first commanding them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. You can read it all for yourself in the fourth chapter of Acts. Did they agree to those terms? Did they obey? Not for a moment. "Whether it be right in the sight of God," replied Peter, "to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Hallelujah! "So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them" (Acts 4:19-21).

Now what is to be their procedure? What would Worldly Wiseman counsel? I think I can hear him even now. "Be cautious," he advises. "Keep quiet. Obey the rulers and don't preach any more for awhile. Wait till the storm blows over. Bow to authority and so escape further trouble."

But did they listen to Worldly Wiseman? Not for a moment. No sooner were they free than they hurried to their own company and reported everything. Then they had a great, rousing prayer meeting. "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings," they exclaimed, "and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (4:23-30).

Think of it—asking for greater boldness than ever! And praying for more signs and wonders, more miracles of healing—the very thing that had gotten them into trouble before! Yes, and God gloriously answered their prayer (5:12-16). And then—well, then it happened just as Worldly Wiseman had predicted. They found themselves in jail again (5:17-42). What an experience! I wish we had space to describe it, but you can read it for yourself. Enough that the upshot of it all was that once again they were reprimanded and warned, after which they were given a beating and then let go.

And how did they take it? Did they console one another and say: "Oh, John, didn't it hurt?" "Yes, Peter, it was simply awful." "And think of it," adds John, "we have been in jail twice already within the past few days. How will we ever show our faces again?" "I think it is too much altogether," declares Peter; "we have had enough."

Did they talk like that? Well, I should say not. Listen, this is what happened: "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

I sometimes wish there were a little more persecution in the church today. The line of demarcation would be clearly drawn then. Mere professors would soon fall away, while God's true children would suffer and go through. It would do us good. But this I know: let revival come and persecution will accompany it. It always follows the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But "blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt. 5:10-12).

DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

Religious reporters doubtful about depth of revival: America's leading reporters of religious news appear to have doubts about the depth of the so-called spiritual revival. Only five of thirty reporters interviewed at the annual convention of the Religious Newswriters' Association, in Minneapolis, Minn., thought the United States was experiencing "a genuine spiritual reawakening." Three believed the current interest in religion was "a transitory phenomenon, with little real meaning."

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Population trends bringing revival of "circuit rider": Rural population trends in America are bringing about a return of "the circuit rider," Dr. David Moberg, of Bethel Baptist College, St. Paul, Minn., told the annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Cleveland, Ohio. He urged the merger of small country churches into larger, more effective and less costly units and said that where such mergers are impossible "it may become increasingly necessary to return to a modified form of the circuit rider of the previous centuries."

●

Teen-agers form J.O.Y. group: A group of teen-age boys in Portland, Ind., has formed an organization called J.O.Y., meaning "Jesus, Others, You." The group holds weekly inspirational meetings at various churches. One of its first service projects was a food shower for a family whose home had been damaged by fire.

●

Air Force sets spiritual life conferences: Two spiritual life conferences for Protestant Air Force personnel and their wives were announced in Washington, D. C., by Chaplain (Major General) Charles I. Carpenter, Chief of Air Force Chaplains. They will be held at Estes Park, Colo., July 9-13, and the Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C., August 31-September 4. The theme will be "God Calls You." Prominent Protestant clergymen of several denominations have been invited to participate along with Air Force chaplains.

ABROAD

Israel tourist trade expected to double: In Israel operators of hotels and tourist attractions are rejoicing over the prediction of a nine-man team of experts who surveyed their business prospects. The experts said that the Israel tourist trade will double in the next four years. By that time some 100,000 visitors a year will be arriving, most of whom will be American Christians bent on seeing for themselves the land of the Bible.

●

Mexican Indians must pay to worship: In Mexico a congregation of evangelical Indians has been required by law to pay one thousand pesos (about $81.00) for permission to hold worship services in its own church building. Mexican law requires that when a church has erected a building for worship, the titles to that property must be given to the government. Thus the government owns all church buildings in the country. The law further provides that the government will in turn give written permission to hold public services in the building.

THE PRESS

New evangelical magazine to appear in October: Plans for publication of a new nondenominational Protestant fortnightly magazine to be called *Christianity Today* were announced in Washington, D. C. Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, editor, said the first issue will appear on October 15 and an initial press run of 200,000 has been ordered. Associate editor is Rev. Marcellus Kik, a pastor of the Reformed Church in America. Dr. L. Nelson Bell, of Asheville, N. C., is executive editor. Managing editor of the magazine will be Larry Ward, former managing editor of *Christian Life* magazine.

PEOPLE

Holds sixty-year Sunday school record: John "Pete" Edgar, a druggist of Catasauqua, Pa., has an unbroken Sunday school attendance record of more than sixty years. It came to light after a story was published that George W. McDaniel, Jr., of Dallas, Tex., had attended Sunday school for thirty-seven years without missing a Sunday. Mr. Edgar's entire record was established at the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua.

PEOPLE SAY

Dr. C. Morse Ward, the radio network evangelist for the Assemblies of God Church: "A true revival is a visitation from God to a community and since the devil can't prevent it, he will do his best to join it. Likewise, our expensive and courageously conceived evangelism today can be turned into the enemies of the church unless it is properly disciplined by those who carry the authority of the church and who, in the providence of God, are the leaders of the church."

ODDITIES IN THE NEWS

Church launches "hot rod" program: A Tulsa, Okla., church has launched a program to combine "hot rods and holy habits." St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is organizing a Hot Rod Club, open to any young person in the city interested in the hopped-up jalopies. The congregation plans to erect a "hot rod barn" on the church site where youth can work on their "rods" or even store them if they wish.

R. E. CUTBIRTH
Editor

ALLIANCE YOUTH

Rev. Donald Miller

Youth Conference Is the Answer

By REV. DONALD A. MILLER, *Syracuse, New York*

A mother came to me the other day, "Pastor, as far as I know my daughter is the only Christian in her high school. What are some of the things I can do to help her through these difficult years?" One of the first answers I gave her was, "Send her to youth conference this summer."

Wonderful things happen at youth conferences. Young people come unsaved and go home the possessors of eternal life. Others have come defeated by Satan, but during the days at camp they hear and heed the call to a new and closer walk with the Lord. Teen-agers come with doubts as to the future, but go home with the future safely entrusted to the care of the One who holds the future. Critical youth come with their criticisms of church and home and folk in authority, but go home humbly desiring to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, like the girl above, many come after a rugged year at school. They have stood up against the godlessness of the crowd, the indifference of professing Christians, the mockery of atheistic teachers, and sometimes the misunderstanding of parents. All year they have been in the minority. More than one tough battle has been waged alone. Sometimes there has been victory; once in a while there has been defeat, but never rejection, never retreat. What better plan for them than to get away with other young people of the same age with the same desires, the same aspirations, the same problems.

Conference days are happy days. Some people see only a part of it; they get a little disturbed because there seems to be a lot of play—and once in a while tomfoolery. But that is not the fault of youth conference; that is just a young person's nature. Youth conference will take that energy and seek to channel it into proper places. And what energy to channel! You hear the click of the ping-pong ball at an hour in the morning that amazes even the birds. At night they never seem to want to go to sleep, especially if someone has decided that he is going to stay awake all night. Of course, everyone else has to try the same thing. Young people like to play games, take swims, and they want nothing at all to do with afternoon rests. They usually follow the leader. (And if the leader does not do right then there is a discipline problem on hand. High courts of justice are always ready. But at such times justice is always tempered with mercy. To be sure, the welfare of the whole group is more important than the welfare of one, and so once in a while someone has to go home. That may be a lesson too which will prove everlastingly important.) But—these are the extras. Young people can choose or not choose them, but the services and the seminars and the prayer meetings they do not miss.

All too quickly the week goes by and the time comes for a closing testimonial service. It may be by a bonfire with the flames leaping high into the summer sky. It might be near a lake with flickering candles held in the hands of young people; they might put the candles on a plank and then let the plank and the candles drift out over the lake, lighting the darkness as it goes. O the meeting might be held in a bi tabernacle with big microphones ha hiding the young person's face a he speaks.

They say very little of the ping pong, or the softball game agains the counselors, or the hike unde the moon; they never repeat th joke they heard or tell of the nigh they decided to stay awake all nigh (they didn't, of course!). But th is what they do say:

"I wasn't much of a testimon for the Lord in high school las year, but I want to be a living epist this year," said one. He didn't spea loudly but there was determinatio in his voice. "I sure have been a dud in the home church. No on has ever been able to depend on m for anything. I want the Lord t make me a servant for Him." Tha cockiness which was so offensive a the beginning is gone now. Anothe said, "I told the Lord I wouldn't g to the foreign field, but He has al of me now—forever." "We are goin to have prayer meetings before school." "I've been neglecting th Word of God. I trust the Lord wil strengthen me to read it faithfully."

The bonfires begin to die down Out on the lake it is suddenly dark the last candle has burned all the way down. The microphones are pu away for another year, but a hun dred young people—yes, thousand of young people—are holding hig the cause and testimony of Chris in high school, college and at wor across the country and they testif in November and March that youth conferences do not end, their bless ings and experiences do not go out

Wanted—a Worker

God never goes to the lazy or idl when He needs men for His service

Moses was busy with his flocks a Horeb.

Gideon was busy threshing wheat

Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts.

David was busy caring for his father's sheep.

Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.

Amos was busy following the flock.

Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's cup.—POWER.

Chinese Churches in the Philippines

(Adapted from the report to the missionary conference by the former chairman, Rev. R. E. Bressler.)

In three centers where there are large concentrations of Chinese people missionaries have been allocated to supervise or to assist in the work according to the need.

In the Zamboanga City area a missionary has been responsible for the work. For some months negotiations have been under way to secure official permission for Mr. Paul Ho, a graduate from the Cheung Chau Bible Institute near Hong Kong, to enter the Philippines. The Zamboanga Chinese Church has called him as pastor and expects to assume his full support. The spirit of unity on the part of the leaders and members is cause for thanksgiving. A young people's group was organized and its numbers have multiplied. More important has been the manifest increase in the knowledge of the Word, and the spirit of service which grows out of a deepened prayer life.

Several families of Chinese believers have transferred from Cotabato to other areas. They are greatly missed for they were faithful in attendance and in support of the work. Mr. Sun Tek Guan, a graduate of the Ebenezer Bible Institute, is pastor. Previous to his graduation he consented to stay out of school for a year in order to help the Christians through a crisis. That period of labor won for him great respect throughout the Chinese community as they saw in him a devoted and true servant of the Lord. This church is self-supporting.

In Davao the Chinese pastor and the missionary have led the Christians into intensive and extensive ministries of witnessing. A Sunday school was started in a nearby village through the efforts of the young people's group. This has proved to be a splendid means of reaching both children and adults, and of leading numbers of them to the Lord.

The church has also built a chapel in Davao not far from the one they have been sharing with the Filipino church. Having their own building, they are able to meet on Sunday mornings and to schedule other services as desired. For several years their Sunday school classes met in homes. Then a rented place was used for some time.

Rev. Wesley Shao, pastor of the Davao Chinese Church, conducted a series of services for the Chinese of Jolo and quite a number professed conversion. It has not been possible to maintain the follow-up work that is necessary after such a response, due to the lack of a properly qualified worker. Prayer is requested for this group and for all the Chinese throughout the field.

A Witch Doctor Saved

By MRS. RUTH ELLENBERGER, *Africa*

Pierre Fatewa, a student from the Telekoro Bible School, went to Bayilian on a week-end assignment. After preaching on repentance, he gave an altar call. Among a number who responded was Tamba, a well-dressed middle-aged man, who said he wanted to repent. The people laughed at this announcement, and continued even after Pierre rebuked them. "You don't know who he is. He's the witch doctor!" they said.

Pierre said that if Tamba repented he too could walk the Jesus road and suggested they go into the house where they could talk quietly. But Tamba said that he was not ashamed of what he was doing. He prayed the best he knew, as did his two sons and some townspeople.

At service the next morning none of the new converts appeared, so Pierre went after them and told them they should come to learn how to walk the new way. But Tamba said he had been thinking it over and had almost decided that the new way was for young men, and that he would not be able to persevere.

Pierre told him that God could save and keep a witch doctor, but that he must get rid of his fetishes. That night the fetish bonfire gave enough light for the entire service. Tamba said, "Tonight all my family and I are free." Two weeks later he gave testimony that all his witchcraft was past and that God had truly made him a new person.

Greetings from Japan

The conference of the Japan Alliance met April 29 to May 2 at the Alliance Bible School at Hiroshima and this conference wishes to extend greetings to the 59th General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance with much thanksgiving and esteem.

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and assistance in many ways during the past year. The Lord has granted opportunity to give the gospel message to many precious souls, especially through the aid we have received for literature and radio evangelism.

We also wish to express our gratitude for your help in publishing Dr. A. B. Simpson's *Holy Spirit in the New Testament* and other spiritual books which have been the means of strengthening our faith and have been a blessing to Christians in other organizations.

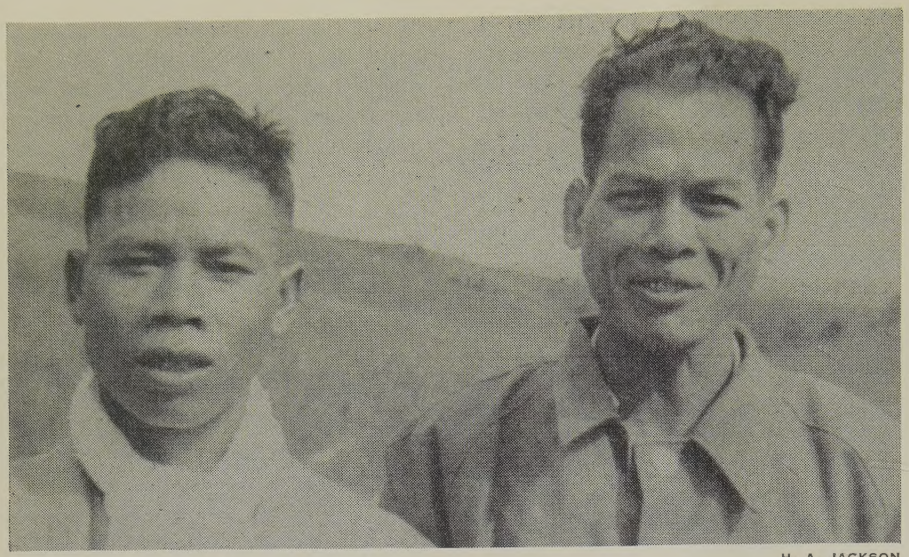
It was a great uplift to the Japan Alliance to have Mr. Oye attend the Bangkok conference and we are deeply grateful for your financial assistance given for that purpose. The report from Bangkok helps us to reach out after a world vision.

We humbly send this greeting, praying that the reports at the Council from all countries may inspire greater zeal to send "The Whole Bible to the Whole World" and that we may press on with the message to the remotest parts of our assigned areas in Japan.

On behalf of the conference of the Japan Alliance,

SUTEICHI OYE,

Chairman of Executive Committee of the Japan Alliance.



H. A. JACKSON

Ha Sao and Ha Chu, Cil tribesmen who were ordained at the Easter conference in Viet Nam. Ha Sao is superintendent of the tribal work in the Dalat area. These men have been workers for a number of years.

Five Tribesmen Ordained

By AGNES KERR

AT dawn Easter the tropical sky was clear and the breeze cool. At Banméthuot more than two hundred people from seven different tribes were gathered for a sunrise service on the lawn by a missionary residence. This service opened the four-day intertribal conference of the Tribes Evangelical Church, held April 1 to 4.

Rev. H. A. Jackson, who has worked for over twenty-five years among the tribespeople in the Dalat district, preached that morning in the worship service. He spoke in the Vietnamese language and simultaneously the message was translated into Koho, Raday and English. Persons of each language group sat together in the church auditorium and heard the message in their own language.

A large and well-constructed dormitory had been prepared in advance by the workers of the Banméthuot district to house the guests arriving from Djiring, Pleiku, Dalat and other stations.

The most important service of the conference was the ordination of the first five preachers among the tribespeople of Viet Nam. They are Ha Sol, Djiring district; Ha Chu A, Ha Sao A and Ha Kring, Dalat district, and Y Ham, Banméthuot district. Each of these five men has completed at least twenty-four months of study in one of the Bible schools and has preached in assigned villages for as many months under the supervision of the missionaries and the national committee.

Their ordination examinations were based on those given to candidates entering the ministry under The Christian and Missionary Alliance at home. Rev. Pham-Xuan-Tin, president of the Vietnamese missionaries to the tribes, gave the charge to the candidates, speaking to them from Paul's message to Timothy. Rev. N. R. Ziemer and Rev. Pham-Van-Nam offered prayer, consecrating the candidates to the Lord's work. Those present in the service could feel the sense of awe and responsibility upon the hearts of these new ministers of the gospel of Christ.

The business sessions of the conference were conducted by the tribesmen with very little assistance and advice from the chairman of the Mission, Rev. T. G. Mangham, Jr. We watched the pains of this young church struggling to grow up. They made a few mistakes, though not serious ones, but the missionaries did not interfere. Some of these mistakes they corrected themselves with the Lord's guidance and help.

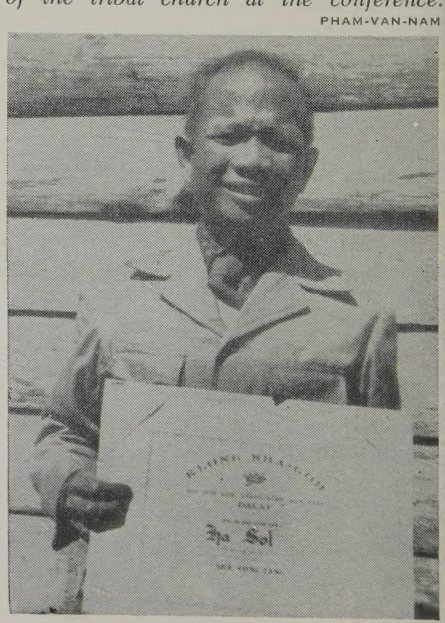
They elected a president and a vice-president from among the five newly ordained workers, and also a secretary and treasurer. It was decided that the president, Rev. Ha Sol, from the Dalat area, and the vice-president, Rev. Y Ham, from the Banméthuot area, would each be supported by the workers and Christians in his own district. This leaves these two men free to travel throughout the field to exhort the workers and encourage the Christians.

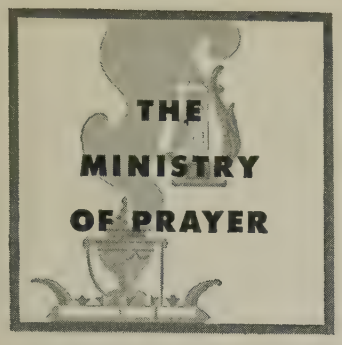
Miss Elizabeth Evans, who was visiting the field during these days, spoke each afternoon in a service open to the public. The conference closed in a spirit of love and unity around the communion table. The newly ordained president and vice-president of the Tribes church presided in the communion service and the joy in the hearts of both the workers and Christians could not be hidden. One of the workers significantly remarked: "A few years ago if people from one tribe had come into the area of another tribe they would not have been at all welcome. In fact, that would have been a cause for war. But now we sit together as brothers around the Lord's holy communion table."

The joy of the missionaries is the great joy of seeing spiritual children walking in the truth and carrying on the work. Our task is to help and advise and to lift up our eyes to new tribes and new areas white unto harvest.

Ha Sol, a Sre tribesman from the Dalat area, was ordained and elected president of the tribal church at the conference.

PHAM-VAN-NAM





India

Praise God for the way in which the churches of India are responding to the challenge to self-support and increased witnessing. . . . Rev. R. P. Chavan, President of the C. & M. A. in India, has been in the United States for several weeks and attended the General Council in Omaha. He ministered there and also in several of our Alliance churches, all with rich blessing. Pray for him as he visits fields in Asia, that he may stir the churches to a greater realization of their responsibility for growth in self-support and in witnessing.

French West Africa

Pray for the eighteen ordained pastors, that they may have a continual anointing of the Holy Spirit upon them for effective ministry. . . . Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Martin are extending their term on the field despite great weariness. A new dispensary has been opened on their station with Miss Emma Woolredge as the nurse in charge. Pray that they may win many of the Samogo people to the Lord as they give them medical care.

Laos

Mr. Tubbs reports a very profitable trip among the Yao people of the Sayaboury area. He says: "In three nights we visited five of the seven villages nearby. I estimate there are between eight hundred and one thousand Yaos there. No visible decisions were made but they were extremely interested. I feel that something real and genuine will take place among them. They are so tied in by large family groups that it is hard for one to step out and follow the Lord. One large house had thirty-one occupants."

Thailand

The gospel has now been broadcast in the Thai language for four years and God is using this method of evangelizing. There is contact by mail with over three hundred listeners. A number have accepted Christ as Saviour. At least seven in one village believed and later invited a preacher from the main center to come and baptize them. Recently gospel programs have been begun in Swatow-Chinese and Lao. Many Thai understand the Lao and have commented favorably about the broadcast. Pray that many hungry hearts shall find Christ as Saviour through the broadcasts. . . . Pray for the Christians in Kaw Neua, Yasotawn. Recently people who hated the Christians set fire to the fine church building and efforts on the part of the Christians to put out the fire were prevented by gunfire and threats. However, the Christians demonstrated a remarkable spirit of patience in tribulation and faith in God for a better building.

Colombia

In this year of the centenary of the establishment of evangelical work in Colombia, evangelistic campaigns are being carried on throughout the Protestant churches of the country. Pray for a harvest of souls. . . . There is increasing pressure and propaganda from a certain religious group in the country against the centennial. Pray that the wrath of men shall be turned to the praise of God. . . . Pray earnestly that God will open the door for new missionaries to enter Colombia.

Chile

A new bookstore has been opened by our Mission in the heart of the city of Temuco, with Mrs. Robert Newman in charge. The Southern Baptists and the Soldiers and Gospel Mission have closed their bookrooms and turned over their stock to us. Thus our Mission will be taking care of the entire evangelical community in Temuco and the area round about. Please remember this new project in prayer, that all expenses will be met and that the Lord will give wisdom in the problems that will be faced. . . . In Talcahuano our brethren have great need of a hall or chapel adequate for accommodating the growing congregation. Since this city is the center of the new steel manufacturing industry in Chile, the population is constantly increasing, thus making suitable properties scarcer. Join in praying that this need may be met and adequate housing may be found for the missionary couple.

Hong Kong

A new church center is needed in the Chuan Wan area. The Christians are increasing in number. Government building projects require the securing of a new location. This is an urgent request for prayer. . . . North Point and Shaukiwan church buildings are too small and new locations are needed for these churches also. . . . Praise God for physical healing for Pastor Joseph Yao from a very serious heart attack. Prayer was requested for him in April.

Japan

The radio ministry continues to give contact with an ever-increasing number of people. About 1,500 are now enrolled in the correspondence course. Graduates of this course are asking for more study material and another course is being launched. The pastors report they are continually meeting people who listen to the Alliance Hour, and through it barriers are being broken and souls saved. One field of radio ministry is to the shut-ins. A great number of Japanese are confined in the tuberculosis hospitals. In a large institution near Hiroshima many who hear the program have now finished the study course. Another of our missionaries visits a large prison where there are over 2,000 men. He is helping many of them complete the study course. One of the inmates wrote his family, telling of his salvation, and the family has also asked for the course that they might study about Christ. Let us help them by prayer. . . . The annual missionary conference in Japan will be held July 5-11. Pray for this gathering.

Indonesia

The missionary conference will be held in Bandung for ten days, probably beginning late in June. Many important problems and plans will be considered and prayer is requested for God's guidance in every decision. . . . In the Mahakam district of East Kalimantan a program of training lay workers is being instituted to help fill the gaps where Bible school graduates are not available and also to do effective witnessing. Not only is it important for the national churches to tithe and support their pastors, but they need to see their responsibility to witness to their fellow men and press on to reach the still untouched tribes in the jungles.

Pray for the literature work in Bali. Recently two secular bookstores have opened in Klungkung with an abundance of trashy magazines. Our missionaries there are eager to distribute the right kind of literature and they ask our prayer help as they go from home to home leaving tracts, selling Bibles and witnessing of Jesus.

New Guinea

Messrs. Troutman, Larson and Gibbons received a hearty welcome from the Uhundunis on their recent survey trip, and these people manifested a real desire for the missionaries to come to them. Due to native war the men were unable to proceed to the large Ilaga Valley. Continue to pray that the Lord will open a way for the reaching of this hitherto untouched tribe. Pray that He will lead in the choosing of a site for a station and open a way for the plane to land in this area which is so difficult to reach by trail. . . . Pray that the Lord will guide in the Bible school at Enarotali as plans are made to bring back some of those already out in the work for further training and to send out new workers at the end of this term.

CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

On Furlough

Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Harvey and son, James, and *Miss Clara Lou Stucky* arrived in New York on May 26 by plane from Gabon, French Equatorial Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey had just returned to the field for their third term of service, but have had to come home at this time because of family responsibilities. Miss Stucky went to the field in 1953 and is home for her first furlough. She will be living in Woodburn, Ind.

The New Generation

On May 19, to *Rev. and Mrs. Paul R. Brittin,* Kenmore, N. Y., a daughter, Sharon Kay.

On May 11, to *Mr. and Mrs. Fred Battles,* Lombard, Ill., a daughter, Diane Elizabeth.

Marriages

Miss Florence Marion Summer and *Rev. A. P. Voth* were united in marriage on May 8, at Janesville, Wisc., where Mr. Voth is the pastor.

Revival at Spartansburg, Pa.

Rev. J. W. Shaw, pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle of Spartansburg, Pa., writes of splendid revival services held in April with Rev. W. L. Maurer, Butler, Pa., as evangelist. There was a significant moving among the youth of the church. In all, twenty-nine persons sought Christ as Saviour.

Fourfold Gospel Emphasized at Ithaca

God honored the ministry of the Word as the Fourfold Gospel was preached by Rev. L. J. Pyne early in May in Ithaca, N. Y. Spiritual refreshing was received as the evangelist emphasized the truth of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in believers. A number of persons were saved and some were healed.

Mountain Work Quickened by God

Misses Grace Holmes and Doris Lipps, of Regina, Ky., and Misses Mildred Weigel and Clara Eicher, of Draffin, Ky., report unusual spiritual blessing during special meetings held with Rev. Joel Winkler, Ashland, Ohio, during April and May. Prayer meetings were held each morning, with many joining in this period of intercession for the unsaved. Several persons professed salvation and the evangelist baptized a number of Christians.

The young lady missionaries who report this moving of the Spirit also request prayer for those who would not attend the meetings and caused disturbances on the outside.

Cranford Dedicates Education Building

The new education building of the Cranford Church of the C. & M. A. was dedicated on May 6, with Dr. H. L. Turner, President, present as the guest speaker. Dr. Turner served the church as a student pastor in 1913 and 1914.

Also taking part were Rev. L. J. Isch, Sr., District Superintendent; a former pastor, Rev. David Mason; Mr. A. A. Whittaker, chairman of the building committee, and Mr. E. P. Francis, chairman of the board of trustees. Dr. G. A. Aitcheson, pastor, presided.

The new two-story building measures 112 by 48 feet and is of concrete and cinder block construction. It provides accommodations for eight hundred pupils. The first floor also contains the pastor's study, church office, and a missionary room. The ultimate cost of the building and equipment, which will be in excess of $100,000, was considerably lessened by the labor donated by members of the church.

New Church Experiences Revival

One of the newest Alliance churches in Western Canada, at Nipawin, Sask., experienced old-fashioned revival during a recent three-week campaign held with Rev. Roland M. Gray, Sr., of Butler, Pa.

At least thirty persons were prayed for individually for spiritual needs. Among those saved was a man over eighty years old, and also a father and his three children. Backsliders were restored and testified to new fellowship with the Lord.

Rev. Roy David, pastor, writes, "There were a number of remarkable healings. A woman who had suffered from headache for fifteen years was immediately delivered; a man's blood pressure dropped from 225 to 160 in a short time. Also, a real work was done among the young people. Some of them walked four miles each night and then did their school homework after services. Many of them attended the prayer meetings faithfully."

St. Paul Dedicates Education Unit

In April members of the Simpson Memorial Church, St. Paul, Minn., dedicated a new education building which provides facilities for a Sunday school of 800. The present attendance is over 350, with a steady increase being shown.

Missionary Institute Changes Name

The Missionary Training Institute, Nyack, N. Y., officially changed its name to Nyack Missionary College on May 1, 1956.

The school was founded in 1882 by Dr. A. B. Simpson, who sought to establish a school that would meet the need of world-wide evangelization. This school, which Dr. Simpson called a "college," combined into its curriculum in a three-year course the essential studies of college and seminary, while also serving those who lacked formal preparatory training. The result was a specialized school.

"Nyack" has continued this same program of specialization for seventy-five years. A four-year and a five-year course were added recently and the basic program now offers bachelor degrees in the fields of Bible and Theology, Missions, Christian Education and Sacred Music.

Nyack Missionary College is one of the four regional schools of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. It is accredited on the college level by the New York Board of Regents and the Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges. The college will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in 1957.

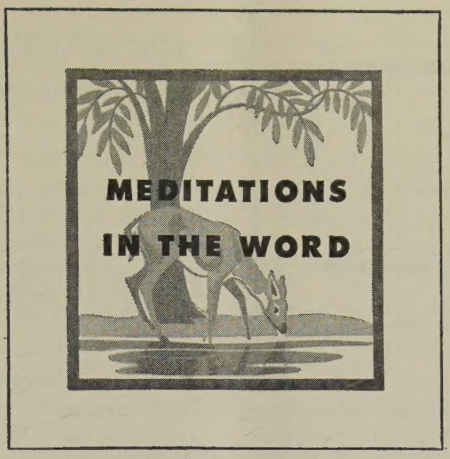
Rev. L. W. Pippert, District Superintendent, brought the sermon, with the charge to the congregation being given by Rev. T. Robert Brewer, of the St. Paul Bible Institute faculty. The contractor, also a member of the church, Mr. Robert Weatlund, presented the keys to Mr. Neal Dueholm, chairman of the building committee, who committed them to Mr. Oliver Anderson, Sunday school superintendent. Mr. Leonard Carlson gave an interesting summary of the history of the church, which had the personal ministry of Dr. A. B. Simpson half a century ago.

The new addition is valued at $100,000, but the contribution of much of the labor and materials by members and friends kept the actual cost considerably lower. The main church building was constructed in 1936 under the leadership of Rev. L. A. Perkins.

Simpson Memorial Church has also moved forward in faith in missionary giving. The pledge of $27,000 received in the fall missionary convention marked an increase of $7,000 over the previous year. Rev. C. J. Mason is the pastor, assisted by Mr. Richard D. Ludwigson.

Virginia Prayer Groups Organize

The women's missionary prayer bands of Virginia organized a state-wide group with the following officers: Mrs. E. C. Murray, president; Mrs. John Kozy, vice-president; Mrs. Lloyd Powell, treasurer; Mrs. K. Richardson, recording secretary, and Miss Marie Hopkins, corresponding secretary.



Compiled by EDITH M. BEYERLE

Sunday

DAILY READING—Mark 14:1-9.
DAILY TEXT—"*She hath done what she could*" (verse 8).

We have not the placing of ourselves, but the filling of our place. Sometimes the humblest place is as important as the most prominent, even as the little jeweled pivot in the watch is the axis of the whole machinery, and the piston in the engine moves the whole works of the factory or the carriages of the train. The little maid in Naaman's house turned the fortunes of the great prince of Syria, and Joseph in a prison or a kitchen was as important a factor in the world's history as Joseph on the throne. Let us, therefore, recognize every place in life and every circumstance that comes to us as a definite occasion for some heavenly purpose; let us seek to use it for the service and glory of our God. Are you in the family circle? You are there to be a blessing to those around you. Are you rich? Your money is not your own, but a trust for God.—A. B. SIMPSON.

Monday

DAILY READING—Isaiah 43:1-11.
DAILY TEXT—"*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee*" (verse 2).

It was our privilege to spend a number of years in the mission fields of Korea and Japan, but the climate and overstrain of heavy work caused my husband's health to fail and we were compelled to return to the homeland, where for six years a battle was waged between life and death. Satan tempted us to faint under the pressure, but each time when the testings had reached their utmost limit, God would illumine some old and familiar text or a helpful book or tract which would providentially come into our hands and which contained just the message we needed at the moment. One day while we were walking along the seashore, wondering almost if God had forgotten to be gracious, a little leaflet lay at our feet. We picked it up and read, "God smiles on His child in the eye of the storm," and we caught anew a glimpse of His loving face, and have been held in His strong, loving arms these trying years till we have learned to love our "desert" because of His wonderful presence with us.—SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES.

Tuesday

DAILY READING—2 Peter 1:1-14.
DAILY TEXT—"*Partakers of the divine nature*" (verse 4).

It is the purpose of God that we should be like Him now! God wants us to be separated from all defilement. That does not necessarily mean that we are to be separated only from the gross side of things but even from refined kinds of things, and so the apostle Paul says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." Your deeper life and my deeper life is of the spirit. God wants to remove all defilement from the flesh and spirit, not only from all known sin but from every defilement. When I take up a newspaper I feel that I want to take an inside bath because I touched it. There are many articles in the newspapers Christians ought not to read. God says that we must be separated from every defilement and every thought that would mar our walk.—ARTHUR HARRIS.

Wednesday

DAILY READING—1 Corinthians 13.
DAILY TEXT—"*Then shall I know*" (verse 12).

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.
—WILLIAM COWPER.

Thursday

DAILY READING—James 3:1-10.
DAILY TEXT—"*Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*" (verse 5).

I suppose that of all the sins, great or small, that human beings are most guilty of, that of repeating faults is the commonest and regarded as the least harmful. There is a "little member" about which James admonishes us that must be more than little in its consequences or he would not have taken up a whole chapter in his short epistle to discuss the matter and warn us against its unholy use. James is an expert tongue doctor, and he does not endeavor to conceal from the patient the seriousness of the malady. He even tells us that if we keep this little member under control we shall have met the end of perfection; then, surely, there must be much that is dependent upon how we manage this "unruly" member, as to whether we shall be the proper representatives of the Lord Jesus.—MRS. H. C. MORRISON.

Friday

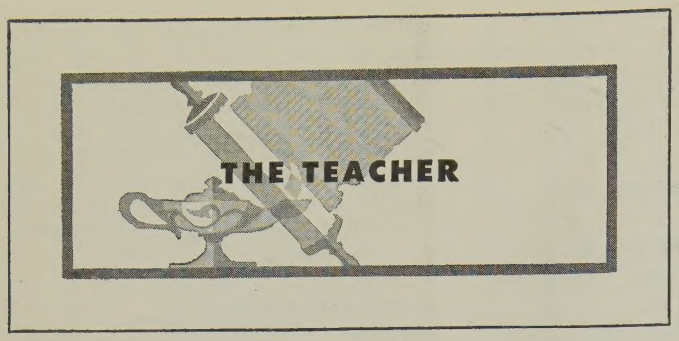
DAILY READING—Psalm 6.
DAILY TEXT—"*The Lord hath heard*" (verses 8, 9).

Somewhere between verses 7 and 8 of this psalm David was reassured in his heart that God had seen his "swimming bed" and "watered couch," had heard his "voice" and "supplication" and had undertaken for his circumstances, of whatever nature they were. One minute in the veritable depths of the Slough of Despond; the next, seemingly walking on air! Some of us who read this record are curious to know just what word of assurance God spoke into David's heart that so lifted him up. But the Spirit who inspired the record may have desisted in satisfying our curiosity by not recording it lest we insist upon His following the same pattern and giving us the same word. We are all so human, and so often hanker after the experience of some other saint when, in wisdom and in love for the *individual*, God wants to furnish him with an experience all his own, one which just suits his disposition. God's principles are the same with all, but His outworking of these principles vary with personalities.—PAMEH.

Saturday

DAILY READING—Matthew 11:18-30.
DAILY TEXT—"*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me*" (verse 29).

The yoke of Christ is the will of Christ. You remember how Saul of Tarsus said: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" How did the answer come? When the Lord answers that prayer, He does not answer it all at once. If you are seeking to know what the will of the Lord is, He reveals it to you gradually. See how it came to Saul: "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." God had a wonderful purpose for converted Saul, but now He gave him only enough light to go into the city, just a few steps. God had prepared a man there to wait for him. And when Saul was willing to take those few steps, then he was ready for more light. Now you want to know the will of God, and you would like to know what God wants you to do tomorrow and the next day. God never deals with us thus. God answered Saul's prayer, and Ananias told him what God's will was for him—that he should receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost.—EVAN H. HOPKINS.



By DON J. KENYON

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—JUNE 24, 1956

The Continuing Mission of the Church

Acts 28:16, 23-31

GOLDEN TEXT

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."—Matthew 28:19, 20.

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

After long months of waiting at Caesarea, the exhausting sea voyage to Rome, Paul at last reaches his goal—the capital of the empire. This seems to be the climax toward which Luke was writing and reaching it, the record ends. The "chosen vessel" is at last to have his opportunity to witness before the emperor. Meanwhile, Paul is not idle. He entertains visitors and some of them are won to Christ. He has invaded the very palace with the gospel (Phil. 4:22). This seems to be the most logical scene upon which the curtain of inspired history should fall on the activity of world redemption. The Prison Epistles are the monumental work of his life written while he is a prisoner of the Lord Jesus in Rome. Life or death—which? It means very little to Paul so long as his Lord receives the glory.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are many significant factors which should be noted with reference to the context of this lesson. It is because of Paul's leadership and in answer to his prayers that the ship which carried him to Rome, although destroyed, has brought them safely to Melita. Paul has been miraculously delivered from the bite of a viper. He is used of God to heal the father of the governor of the isle of Melita. In brief, Paul is in command all the way because he is the servant of God. Had it not been that God was bringing His servant to Rome for His own purpose the story would be different. Luke faithfully records the emotional reaction that Paul manifests at the end of this long and eventful journey. When a group of brethren met him at the edge of the city, he thanked God and took courage.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. A prisoner of Jesus Christ—Acts 28:16.
2. A patient witness—Acts 28:23-29.
3. A powerful preacher—Acts 28:30, 31.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

(1) "We came"—*eiselthamen* (v. 16). It is apparent from the plural form that Luke arrived in Rome with Paul but left him at this point where he is taken in custody of the guard.

(2) "To accuse"—*kategorein* (v. 19). Paul's statement shows that he is gracious and wise. His defense is not an accusation against the Jews but an answer to theirs against him.

(3) "This sect"—*hairesis* (v. 22). It is unusually interesting to note that there are no personal accusations between Paul and the Jews. The Jews only say that it is the "heresy" of Jesus that is everywhere spoken against. This Paul defends as his gospel (vv. 23, 24).

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *A prisoner of Jesus Christ* (Acts 28:16).

Because of Paul's arrest it is probable that all of his fellow workers are needed elsewhere. Although the arrest of Paul was a blow to his Gentile converts (Phil. 1:27-30), they carry on his work. It seems that Luke remained in Rome to be near Paul (2 Tim. 4:11).

Knowing well that Paul was not a common criminal, the authorities permit him a great measure of liberty. Put in the charge of the praetorian guard, Paul was probably chained loosely to the wrist of the "soldier that kept him." He was spared the suffering of being thrown into some dark dungeon. He refused to recognize his bonds as those of Rome. He was a "prisoner *in* the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:1, Greek). He will be the captive of Christ until he is His crowned warrior.

2. *A patient witness* (Acts 28:23-29).

Paul's first move in Rome was to call together the Jewish leaders for a consultation, making it clear that his appeal to Caesar was not for the purpose of accusing the Jewish nation before the emperor (v. 19). "The hope of Israel" was his answer to his chain (v. 20). The counterclaim of the Jews was that they had not received any official complaint against him from Jerusalem. Since Felix and Festus had not come to any conclusion about Paul, it is supposed that any official word from Jerusalem would have a worse reaction upon the accuser than the accused. Paul spent an entire day with them in their Scriptures showing Jesus Christ in prophecy. Some of them listened to Paul, but some coldly rejected him. The Greek gives no evidence of full faith in any. Their ranks were divided between absolute unbelief and reserved judgment. As they departed Paul quoted from Isaiah 6:9, 10, showing the ancient disease of unbelief to be still among them.

While The Acts records the faithful outreach of the missionaries to the uttermost parts of the earth, it ends with this sad story of Jewish rejection of the gospel in the world's first city. Again Paul turned to the Gentiles. He was confident that they would hear the gospel (v. 28). What more graphic language could summarize the problem of Jewish missions? Luke records a "departure" and a "reasoning." They would never fit the passionate message of Paul into their perverted pattern so long as the veil was before their eyes.

3. *A powerful preacher* (Acts 28:30, 31).

The two years mentioned here is thought by sound authorities to be the period of at least eighteen months required by law for formal prosecution by the Jews. The remaining time would be required for the slow-moving wheels of justice to clear Paul for release. There is no way of knowing, nor is it vital to know, whether Paul was released for further ministry or executed. The former view prevails. Paul was at least free to carry on the work nearest his heart for many months. The record leaves Paul a prisoner.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

(1) Take note of the "spiritual diplomacy" which Paul uses on the Jewish representation at Rome. He exercises extreme caution against antagonizing them in any way until he can present his gospel. He usually preached to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. He did not turn to the Gentiles of Rome till the Jews rejected. (2) A brief discussion on the first and second imprisonment theories may be useful.

Quotes from Our Contemporaries

On the controversial subject of "sinning Christianity" T. A. HEGRE, editor of *The Message of the Cross*, says:

"There is no real profit in presenting theory unrelated to practice. . . . Is there not a common ground where we can meet? Can we not agree on this, that there is absolute security in Christ, but there is no security in sin? One who questions his security in Christ questions His power to keep that which is committed to Him. On the other hand, one who contends for security in sin testifies to the fact that he intends to sin and therefore in such a position has no right to call himself a Christian."

In *Good News Broadcaster*, G. CHRISTIAN WEISS writes:

"Forty-seven per cent of the world's income flows into the pockets of American citizens. And yet we represent only seven per cent of the world's population! Why has God allowed such a situation to come to pass? Is it not obvious that He expects us to render an unusual service to Him in our generation? . . . It is the conviction of my soul that a sweeping revival through the fundamental churches of the United States of America could and would effect the evangelization of the world in our generation."

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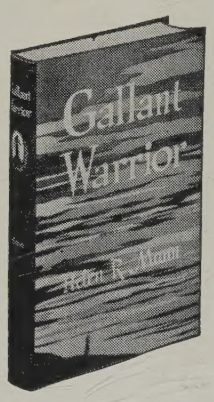

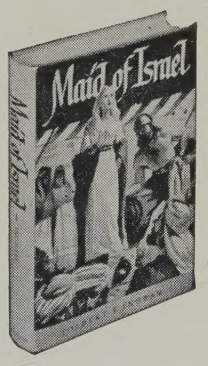

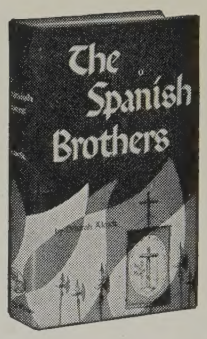

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A crumbling wall threatens students' safety

A Special Need at Khamgaon Girls' School

NEARLY one hundred and fifty girls attend the mission school in Khamgaon, India. Most of them are in the school ten months each year as boarding students. Some, who are orphans, have no other home.

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ANN DROPPA

Sunder, a student at the girls' school, caused much trouble for the teachers before she was saved. She is now a changed girl, coöperative and kind.

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The budget for operating this school does not include funds for major repairs on the buildings. The practice of extreme economy and reliance upon student help enables them to meet current expenses but leaves nothing over. In order to repair one of the buildings, the wall of which is at the point of collapse and dangerous, and to add classrooms, they must have immediate financial help from outside sources. The Board of Managers has authorized making an appeal for $4,500, the amount estimated as necessary.

Gifts for this purpose should be sent as soon as possible to The Treasurer, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, New York.

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